

Book Talk

Slide 1: American Civil War (Title Page)

Slide 2: Civil War Background (Title Slide)

Slide 3: Civil War

- Almost every American family had someone in the War
 - As you will see in the books we discuss, families were deeply affected

Slide 4: Time Line

- I want to give you some information about the Civil War that will help you understand the books I will be discussing better.
- Pre-1861: Slavery
 - Issue
 - States
 - Some approved
 - Some did not
- 1860: Lincoln elected president
 - Lincoln campaigned against expanding slavery
- Jan. 1861: The South Secedes
 - 11 states secede after Lincoln is elected
- March 1861: Lincoln takes office
- April 12, 1861: Fort Sumpter, South Carolina
 - Beginning of American Civil War
 - Confederates attacked Fort Sumpter
 - Lincoln called a volunteer army to regain federal property
- July 1861: Battle of Bull Run
 - 1st major battle of Civil War
 - Both sides suffered
 - much death
 - and injury
 - Union retreated
- Jan. 1862: The War Order
 - Lincoln authorizes the Union to attack Confederacy
 - Union General McClellan ignored the order
 - Goal of War: to reunify the United States

Slide 5: Time Line

- Sept. 17, 1862: Battle of Antietam
 - Bloodiest 1-day battle
 - Confederate troops
 - under Robert E. Lee
 - they retreated
- Jan. 1, 1863: Emancipation Proclamation
 - Freed all slaves
 - Goal of the War became: to end slavery
- July 1-3, 1863: Battle of Gettysburg
 - Major turning point of war
 - Union General Meade defeated Confederate General Lee
- Union took control with Battle of Shiloh, Siege of Vicksburg, the Overland Campaign, the Siege of Petersburg, capture of Atlanta, and the March to the Sea
 - Union gained control of the Mississippi River
 - Confederate Army was reduced
 - South's infrastructure destroyed

Slide 6: Time Line

- April 9, 1865: Lee surrenders to Grant, Appomattox Court House

Slide 7: The Books

Slide 8: A Picture Book of Harriet Tubman

Questions to Ask:

- Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a slave?
- Can you imagine working all day and not getting paid?
- How would you feel if you got “caught” eating a lump of sugar because you had never tasted sugar before and having to hide with the pigs and eat only potato peels to avoid being whipped?
- What if you got so hungry that you had to choose between starving or facing your owner after stealing sugar and being whipped because you needed food?
- Even if you don’t always get along with your brothers and sisters, how would you feel if two of your sisters were taken away in chains and sold?

Slide 9: A Picture Book of Harriet Tubman

- Well, this is exactly what happened to Harriet Tubman when she was a young girl.
 - Youth
 - Abolitionists beginning to speak out
 - Against slavery
 - And lead people out of slavery
 - Harriet hated slavery
 - Was spurred on by spirit of abolitionists
 - Hoped to someday to be lead to freedom
 - Like Moses led Israelites out of bondage in Egypt
 - Harriet felt strongly enough about freedom
 - Eventually ran away
 - Later said, “I had a right to liberty or death. If I could not have one, I would have the other.”

More Questions:

- Do you feel this strongly about liberty?
- What would you do with your life if you had experienced slavery and had escaped just like Harriet did?
- Would you be content with your freedom, or would you risk your life to help other slaves to become free?
- This story tells about:
 - Harriet Tubman’s courage in helping with the Underground Railroad
 - What she chose to do with her life because of her experiences as a slave

Slide 10: Civil War on Sunday

- My sister's favorite series of books when she was in early elementary grades, was the Magic Tree House series.
 - Not familiar with the Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne
 - let me tell you a little bit
 - Jack and his sister, Annie, who are 8 and 7 years old
 - Discovered a magic tree house in the woods near their home in Pennsylvania
 - It belongs to Morgan le Fay, a magical librarian from Camelot
 - Tree house = full of magical books.
 - Go on adventures:
 - Sit in magic tree house
 - Pointing at picture in book
 - In this particular book
 - (happens to be my sister's favorite)
 - Jack and Annie go on a quest to find a special type of writing
 - *something to follow*,
 - for Morgan le Fay
 - so they can save Camelot

Slide 11: Civil War on Sunday

- Jack and Annie find a book entitled *The Civil War*.
- They point to it and travel to an open field.
- Feeling hot
 - discover that their clothing has been changed (Civil War era)
 - Annie
 - long dress
 - Jack
 - long-sleeved shirt
 - scratchy pants.
- Using the Civil War book
 - Learn that the soldiers they can see coming from the woods in blue uniforms are Union soldiers.
- They carry the book
 - Continue to learn about the Civil War from it throughout their adventures.
- Working in a field hospital
 - unique experience
 - meeting
 - interacting with
 - and assisting Clara Barton
 - a famous nurse who provided relief and comfort to soldiers on the Civil War battle fields.
 - They help on the battle field by following a list of instructions given to them by one of Clara Barton's nurses.
 - The instructions read:
 - *Be cheerful. Lessen sorrow and give hope. Be brave. Put aside your own feelings. Don't give up.*

- Excited to have “something to follow,” Jack took the list from Annie and said,

“Don’t you get it? *This is it!* We found it! The special writing for Morgan’s library! *Something to follow.*”

“Yes!” said Annie.

Jack put the paper into his knapsack.

“It was handed right to us!” he said, smiling. “We can go home now!”

“Oh, no! Not now!” said Annie. “We have to help the nurses first.”

“But , Annie—” said Jack.

She picked up the food basket. Then she started toward the row of white tents.

“Wait—we’re supposed to leave,” Jack said weakly. “Our mission is over.”

The truth was he didn’t want to help. He didn’t want to be around wounded and suffering soldiers. It was too sad.

- Jack and Annie stay to help the soldiers.
- They experience the Civil War first hand
 - develop feelings of compassion for the soldiers, nurses, and people who lived during the Civil War
 - tug at your heart strings type of feelings as read story

Slide 12: Amelia's War

- Elementary school
 - gained a love of historical fiction by reading books by Ann Rinaldi
- One of my favorites is Amelia's War
 - perhaps because I can relate to how a young girl becomes involved in the Civil War

Slide 13: Amelia's War

- In the early 1860s Amelia Grafton lives in Hagerstown, Maryland,
 - a town split by loyalties to the Confederates and the Union.
- The town is affected by the war as both Union and Confederate soldiers swarm the town frequently.
 - Following the Battle of Gettysburg, Amelia has an encounter with a Confederate soldier.
 -

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Over the picket fence in front, I came face-to-face with a soldier. For a moment we just stared at each other. He looked spent. He had three or four days' worth of stubble on his face. His eyes were red-rimmed. His uniform was dirty, but I could see it was a butternut color. And he wore an insignia. It said "13th Virginia."

"Hello there, little lady." He tipped his hat. "You wouldn't have a bit of breakfast left over, would you?"!

"Sky! Sky!" I dropped the bundle of twigs and ran to the back of the house.

Mama heard me and opened the side door.

"What's wrong?" Then she saw the soldier too.

"Howdy, ma'am."

Mama drew us close. "Are you lost?"

"No, ma'am. We're in town."

"We?" mama asked?

"Yes, ma'am. The 2nd North Carolina, the 10th and 13th Virginia. Chambliss is our commander. We've got our pickets all over the place."

"We heard the battle was over at Gettysburg. Why are you here?"

"Why, to take a stand, ma'am." He was so polite he even held his hat in hand. "When the Yankees come after us, we aim to take a stand. Right here."

"But this is our town," Mama insisted. She could not accept that they were here.

"Yes, ma'am," he said gently, "but now I'd advise you all to go in the house. There's gonna be a fight."

"A fight?" mama asked. "Here? In front of our house?"

"A fight wherever we have to make it a fight," he replied. "I'm sorry, ma'am. It's nothing personal."

"You have brought the war to our town," Mama flung back tearfully. "And you say it's nothing personal? You people have been tramping through our town for over two years now. Why can't you leave us be?"

- Clearly this war is creating strong feelings in the people in Hagerstown and they act on their feelings.
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- A short time after this encounter, as the war is drawing to a close,
 - Amelia stumbles upon a way to act on her feelings and do her part in the war,
 - a dilemma she has been struggling with.
- She doesn't like the war and doesn't want to become involved with it,
 - but she knows she eventually will because everyone around her has.
- She has watched others as they have acted on their beliefs to fight the war in their own ways.
 - Her brother, Wes, ran away to join the Union army,
 - and his former sweetheart, Jinny, soon followed.
 - Amelia's mother helped in the hospital,
 - while her father protected their cook, Aunt Lou, a freed slave, by taking her to safety in Philadelphia
 - He also brought needed and longed for supplies for his store.
 - Her friend, Josh,
 - repaired his father's damaged printing press,
 - and printed a few articles on old wallpaper to get information about the war out to people.
- How did Amelia personalize her efforts to help her town and make this "Amelia's War"?

Slide 14: Across Five Aprils

- Imagine yourself as a nine-year-old boy growing up in southern Illinois on a farm in April of 1861.
- Surrounded by family
 - parents,
 - three brothers,
 - a sister,
 - a cousin,
 - and Shadrach, the school teacher, who is practically family
- life is good for this naïve boy, Jethro Creighton,
 - in spite of the adults' apprehension over news about states seceding from the Union
 - and the possibility of war breaking out soon.
 - In fact, Jethro is excited for war.
- However, he doesn't realize how the war will change him from a boy to a man.

Slide 15: Across Five Aprils

- After two of his brother's leave to fight for the Union, the reality of war begins to haunt Jethro.

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After the two younger boys had gone, Jethro took their place in the loft with Bill at night. Sometimes he dreamed about things he'd overheard in the conversations about Wilson's Creek and when he awoke often at the sound of his own cries, there was always Bill sitting on the edge of the bed beside him talking quietly and pretending that the sound of a nine-year-old boy's crying was a manly yell of pursuit and aggression.

"You yelped jest now, Jeth," Bill said on one such night. "Kind of a blood-curdlin' yelp it was. You givin' somebody what-fer in your dreams?"

In the dark Jethro could admit his weakness. "I was scairt," he whispered. "If I'd bin awake, it wouldn't ha' seemed so bad to think about. But sleepin'—I was scairt."

"Lots of us is scairt sometimes," Bill answered.

- Even though Jethro is scared, he responsibly does what has to be done over the course of the war.
 - He deals with many trials
 - and takes on responsibilities that a young boy wouldn't have to deal with if there were no war, responsibilities of a man.
- In addition to helping his family care for their farms,
 - he has to learn to deal with opposition from the community
 - and make ethical decisions regarding deserters.
- Reading this Newberry Honor book by Irene Hunt
 - will help you see the perspective of a boy who grows to maturity during the Civil War
 - and the effect this war likely had on many people.

Slide 16:

- From these books you can tell that everyone was involved in the war from the President of the United States to the slaves and everyone in between, including:
 - Union soldiers
 - Confederate soldiers
 - Civilians—young and old, male and female
 - Medical personnel
 - Freed slaves
- There are many more books that you might enjoy that tell about the Civil War from various perspectives

Slide 17: Read, Read, Read Other Civil War Books

Slide 18-20: References